(b) whether any joint venture agreement has been signed by Government for that purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) While some Australian mining companies have proposed the establishment of joint ventures with Indian companies in the mining sector. Government itself does not contemplate its participation in any joint venture with Australia in the field of mining.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Panchayat Elections

495. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where no Panchayat Election has been conducted as per the proisions of the Constitution; and

(b) the action taken against such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Elections to all levels of Panchayats are due in Bihar, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Elections to District Level Panchyats are due in Goa and Manipur. Elections are also due in hilly districts and to the positions of Chair-persons of intermediate level in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The matter is being actively pursued with the defaulting States.

Rural Water Supply Mission

496. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand the Rural Water Supply Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that many areas in Andhra Pradesh are without potable water; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure proper water supply in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 31.1.1996 there are 334 not covered habitations in Andhra Pradesh. All State Governments have been requested to cover all not covered habitations with safe drinking water source by 15.8.1997. Central Funds are provided to State Governments under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to implement Rural Drinking Water Programme.

Amount spent on Welfare Schemes in Uttar Pradesh

497. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during the last three years, so far, towards Welfare Scheme in Uttar Pradesh State, District-wise;

(b) whether these Welfare Schemes have given special attention/priority to backward and most backward classes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the Welfare Schemes specially earmarked for backward and most backward classes of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): A statement showing the amounts released in the last